

DEI/WE

2 January 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting in Mr. Bundy's Office on 31 December 1962

NSC REVIEW
COMPLETED,
10/31/03

1. Present were Mr. Bundy, Mr. Alexis Johnson and Mr. Hurwitch representing State, Mr. Cyrus Vance and General Wheeler representing the Army with the executive agent badge of DOD, Mr. Adam Yarmolinsky I presume representing the Secretary of Defense although this was not clear, I representing the Director of Central Intelligence, and Mr. Nick Katzenbach representing the Attorney General.

2. Mr. Hurwitch reported on his debriefing of Mr. Donovan, indicating that Castro had urged Donovan to return in a couple of months, bring Mrs. Donovan, and "talk to me about the future of my country." He also indicated that Commandante Viejo who is an idealistic M. D., but wields considerable influence over Castro, will be an adviser to Castro in the palace [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Castro also wanted to know when PAA will resume its flights.

3. Mr. Bundy opened the meeting by stating that it was both premature and overdue, the problem being how to organize internally within the U. S. Government to take care of the Cuban problems and to keep the President in constant touch with what is going on. He said that while the Army is executive agent for DOD, it is too soon to say to what degree they have authority and responsibility. Mr. Bundy pointed out that nobody was happy with MONGOOSE and that we must set up a system of interdepartmental coordination operating under the aegis of the Executive Committee, NSC. He said there is a great shortage of marching orders and, first off, we need someone to spell out just what U. S. policy will be and who will implement it.

4. There was much discussion of the pros and cons of various organizational concepts with Mr. Hurwitch opining that he has an

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abiding faith in the existing agencies of the Executive Branch and would like to avoid any new organizational concepts. He said we must determine whether we are window dressing or really seeking accomplishments, and that in any event we could not fool the Cubans, that they would soon know where the power lay, and if it happened to be the State Department janitor, that is where they would establish their contacts.

5. Mr. Bundy finally determined that he would take up with the President a concept of this organization and that if it met reasonable acceptance, he would then have prepared a formal paper upon which we could get going. This concept was to establish a fifth office at the Director level in ARA in State under Ed Martin. This would be known as an Office of Cuban Affairs, or something similar, and would be headed by a very senior officer of high caliber. He might also have the title of Special Assistant to the Secretary in addition to being Office Director. Mainly, however, he would get his prestige from being chairman of an interdepartmental working group reporting directly to the Executive Committee of NSC and consisting of highly competent officers from State, Defense, CIA, USIA, HEW, and Justice, bringing in other people from other agencies as required for particular problems.

6. Some of the subjects with which this committee and this office would be concerned are as follows:

- a. The future of the Cuban brigade;
- b. Renewal of PAA flights;
- c. Shipping orders and economic warfare;
- d. Finalizing the UN negotiations;
- e. Preparing for an OAS meeting;
- f. Determining whether or not ☐ should be encouraged to establish a rapport with Castro;

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- g. Working on the release of American prisoners;
- h. Determining the parameters for clandestine activities and intelligence collection;
- i. Continuation of overhead surveillance;
- j. What to do about additional refugees;
- k. What to do about a provisional government or government in exile;
- l. What to do about payments to Cuban refugees;
- m. What to do about etc., etc.

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7. In other words, anything and everything involving U. S. activities in and with Cuba would be handled within this organization. Additionally, there would be established in Miami a sort of counter-part organization to this central Washington one, somewhat along the lines of a country team.

8. We are now to await a reaction from the President and word from Mr. Bundy, unless we have some appropriate views which we might wish to get to Mr. Bundy now.

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